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Appl. No. 09/902,726
Amendment dated February 16, 2005
Reply to Office Action of November 20, 2004

- REMARKS/ARGUMENTS -

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 7 to 10 remain in the application.

Claims 1 to 5 and 7 to 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Merriam (U.S. Patent No. 5,322,530).

Claim 6 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but has been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to introduce therein the subject matter of Claims 3, 5 and 6. Accordingly, new independent Claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference.

Claims 3, 5 and 6 have been cancelled as the subject matter thereof has been introduced into Claim 1. The dependency of Claims 4, 7 and 9 has been reviewed in view of the cancellation of Claims 3, 5 and 6.

Apparatus Claims 11 to 19 have been cancelled.

Reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection is respectfully requested.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this Amendment or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

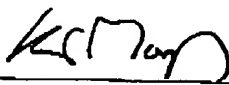
Respectfully submitted,

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By:

February 16, 2005

Date


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